A DECLARATION AND ORDINANCE OF *The* Lords *and* Commons *assembled* in PARLIAMENT;

Touching

The Great SEALE OF *ENGLAND.*

And that the ſaid SEALE is to be put into the hands and cuſtody of ſuch Commiſſioners, as are herein named by both Houſes of Parliament.

ORdered by the Commons in Parliament, That this Declaration *Touching the Great Seale*, be forthwith printed and publiſhed:

H: Elſynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Printed for *Edward Husbands*, November 13. 1643.

25

A DECLARATION AND ORDINANCE OF The Lords and Commons assembled in PARLIAMENT; Touching The Great SEALE OF ENGLAND.

And that the said SEALE is to be put into the hands and custody of such Commissioners, as are herein named by both Houses of Parliament.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliament, That this Declaration Touching the Great Seale, be forthwith printed and published:

H. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Printed for Edward Husbands, November 13. 1643.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LORDS and COMMONS Assembled in Parliament,

Touching the Great Seal of England.

WHereas the Great Seal of England, *which by the Laws of this Realm ought to attend the Parliament, being the Supreme Court of Iustice and Iudicature within this Realm, for the dispatch of the great and weighty affairs of the Commonwealth, which is especially interessed and concerned therein, was above a yeer last past, that is to say, the Two and twentieth day of* May, *Anno* 1642. *by the then* Lord Keeper *thereof,* Edward Lord Littleton, *then a Member and Speaker of the House of Peers in Parliament, contrary to the great*

truſt in him repoſed, and duty of his place, ſecretly and perfidiouſly conveyed away from the Parliament into the Kings Army, raiſed againſt the Parliament; the ſaid Lord-Keeper *departing therewith into the ſaid Army, without the leave or privity of the ſaid Houſe; By means whereof, great miſchiefs and inconveniencies have enſued to this Kingdom, and the Kingdom of* Ireland.

And whereas the ſaid Great Seal *ought conſtantly to remain in the hands and cuſtody of one or more Officer or Officers (ſworn for that ſervice) and to be uſed and imployed for the weal and ſafety of His Majeſties People; which notwithſtanding hath been divers times ſithence the conveying away thereof as aforeſaid, put into the hands of other perſons not ſworn, and Popiſhly and dangerouſly affected, who have had the diſpoſing and managing thereof at their own wills and pleaſures, and hath been trayterouſly and perniciouſly abuſed, to the Ruine and Deſtruction of the Parliament and Kingdom, by granting and iſſuing out divers Illegall* Commiſsions of Array, *and other unlawfull* Commiſsions *for raiſing of Forces againſt the Parliament, by iſſuing out of moſt foul and ſcandalous Papers, under the*

Name

Name and Title of Proclamations, againſt both Houſes of Parliament, and divers Members thereof, and others adhering to them, and Proclayming them Traytors and Rebels; Commiſsions of Oyer *and* Terminer, *to proceed againſt divers of them, as Traytors, and other Commiſsions to ſeize and confiſcate their Eſtates, for no other cauſe, but for doing their duties and ſervices to the Common-wealth; as likewiſe by granting that horrid Commiſsion, for executing of that moſt bloody and deteſtable Deſigne of* Waller, Tomkins, *and others, for the deſtruction of the Parliament, and Citie of* London, *and of the Army rayſed for their juſt Defence; and (as if Maſſacres and Aſſacinations, had beene but light and veniall crimes) another Commiſsion hath beene granted under the ſame Seale for a Ceſſation of Arms with the barbarous and bloody Rebels in* Ireland, *after the effuſion of ſo much innocent blood, and ſlaughter of above one hundred thouſand Proteſtants, Men, Women, and Children, by their mercileſſe, and bloody hands: whereupon a Ceſſation of Arms is accordingly concluded; and thoſe brutiſh Rebels thereby imboldned to prepare themſelves, not only for a totall Extirpation of the Proteſtants remaining there, but for a Conqueſt alſo of this Kingdome: And further by granting of ſeverall Commiſsions, and Offices of Truſt and Command, to notorious Papiſts, who by the Laws and Statutes of this Realme, are made uncapable thereof; and by conferring of Honours, and Dignities, and granting of Lands and Eſtates to divers exorbitant Delinquents, who ſtand legally impeached of high Treaſon, and other high Crimes and miſdemeanours in Parliament.*

All

All which, and many other unlawfull and enormous Acts have passed under the said Great Seale, since the removall thereof from the Parliament, as aforesaid: Which the Lords and Commons taking into their consideration, and finding all wayes, and means obstructed for the procuring of any redresse from His Majestie, in the Premisses, notwithstanding their long hopes, and unceſſant Labours, for the obtayning thereof, are bound in duty, and of necessity to provide some speedy Remedy for these insupportable mischiefes.

BE it therefore Declared and Ordained, by the said Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, that aswell all and every the said Acts formerly mentioned, which have passed under the said Great Seal, as also all Letters Patents and Grants of any Lands, Goods or Estates, of any person, or persons whatsoever, for adhering to the Parliament, all Compositions or Grants, of any Wardships, or Leases of any Wards Lands, Liveries, *Primer seizins & Ouster le maines*, since the said 22. of May 1642. which have not according to the due course of Law, passed through the Court of Wards and Liveries, established by Law: All grants since the said 22. of May 1642. of any Honours, Dignities, Manners, Lands, Hereditaments, or other thing whatsoever, to any person or persons, which have voluntarily contributed, or shall voluntarily contribute any Aid or Assistance to the maintenance of that unnaturall War raised against the Parliament; And all pardons granted to any such person or persons; And all other Acts or things whatsoever, contrary

trary to, or in derogation of the Proceedings of both, or either of the Houſes of Parliament, which have paſſed under the ſaid Great Seal, ſince the removall thereof from the Parliament, ſhall be, and are hereby declared to be utterly Invalid, void, and of none effect, to all intents and purpoſes.

And that all and every act or thing, which after the publication of this Ordinance, ſhall paſſe by, or under the ſaid Great Seal, or under any Great Seal of *England* (other then what is hereby appointed and eſtabliſhed) ſhall be utterly voyd, fruſtrate, and of no effect; and every perſon, or perſons, which ſhall put the ſame in uſe, or ſhall claime any thing thereby, ſhall be held and adjudged a publique Enemy of this State.

And be it further Ordained by the ſaid Lords and Commons, that a Great Seal of *England* already by them made and provided, ſhall be forthwith put in uſe; and ſhall be, and is hereby authorized and eſtabliſhed to be of like force, power, and validity, to all intents and purpoſes as any Great Seal of *England* hath been, or ought to be.

And that it ſhall be put into the hands and cuſtody of the perſons hereafter named, who are hereby Ordained Commiſſioners for that purpoſe; that is to ſay, *John* Earl of Rutland, and *Oliver* Earl of Bollingbrooke, Members of the Houſe of Peers, and *Oliver St. Iohns* Eſquire, His Maieſties Solicitor Generall, *Iohn Wilde* Sergeant at Law, *Samuel Brown*, and *Edmund Prideaux* Eſq; Members of the Houſe of Cõmons; which ſaid perſons, or any three or more of them

them; whereof one member or more of the Lords Houſe, alſo one Member or more of the Houſe of Commons, ſhall be preſent, ſhall have, and are hereby Authorized to have the Keeping, Ordering and diſpoſing thereof, as alſo all ſuch and the like Power and Authority, as any Lord Chancellour, or Lord Keeper, or Commiſſioner of the Great Seal, for the time being hath had, uſed, or ought to have.

H: Elſynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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